

No. 50.

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THE EDMONTON BULLETIN is published every Saturday morning, at the office, Main street, Edmonton. Subscription—Two Dollars per annum. Advertising Rates—Standing advertisements, two dollars a line per annum; transient advertisements, ten cents a line for first insertion and five cents a line for each subsequent insertion; no advertisement inserted for less than One Dollar. FRANK OLIVER, Proprietor.

EDMONTON BULLETIN, OCT. 11, 1884.

Winnipeg is wrathy because its sinking fund is sunk. But what could be more natural for a sinking fund?

JAMAICA is said to be persistent in her application for admission into the Canadian confederation. Jamaica is not as wise now as she will be after ten years of Ottawa rule, that is if Jamaica negroes are treated no better than North-West Canadians.

SIR CARTWRIGHT, in Winnipeg, said he did not think there was any reason why 15,000 white men on the Pacific side of the Rockies should have six representatives in the House of Commons, while 250,000 on this should only have five. If Sir Cartwright and his colleagues had not thought so six years ago it would not have been so now.

CANADA, Ontario and Manitoba have been having a very pretty dance around the boundary dispute. New that the dance is over the delicate question arises, which of the two losers is to pay the piper. In the saw off, with Norquay pitted against Sir John, there is little doubt as to which it will be. Manitoba's share of the circus is some \$25,000.

THE Manitoba Free Press heads an account of the meeting of the three emperors with the lines, "Imperial pow-wow," "The Czar and Emperors having a good time," "In constant dread of being blown to pieces," "A round of festivities." It must be all right when the Great Moral Daily says so, but what there is festive about a constant dread of being blown to pieces is not apparent to the naked eye?

THE Winnipeg Times still holds that responsible government should not be granted the North-West. It says: "They can better afford to wait a year or two than to rashly assume responsibilities, all the consequences of which they cannot easily foresee." Did the Times ever hear of the Scotch minister who said to his daughter, "Janet, it's a solemn thing to be married," and she answered, "Ay, father, but it's a deal sower not to be."

OGILVIE & Co. offered 87½ cents a bushel for two car loads of C. P. R. wheat of this season's yield lately. This year's wheat is worth 75 cents in Chicago. Last year Ogilvie & Co. paid 75 cents for the best wheat in Winnipeg, while wheat was worth 90 cents to \$1 in Chicago. If the Farmers' union is responsible for so many great effects in Manitoba and throughout the world, would it be unfair for it to claim credit for this rise in price, to cause which was the object of the agitation?

THE Winnipeg Times, unable to commend any other action of attorney-general Miller in regard to the disputed territory, claims credit for him on account of his promptitude in vacating it after it became impossible for him to hold it any longer. If the attorney-general had displayed equal promptitude in not attempting to hold what did not belong to him Manitoba would have been a good many thousand dollars ahead. By the way, does the vacation of the territory include Miller's vacation of his seat?

Winnipeg has outdone herself. Alderman Wilson, chairman of the finance committee, lent his wife, out of the city sinking fund, some \$2,500 on the security of property which was already mortgaged in the name of another party. He had besides assumed the position in many ways. He was arrested and held on bonds of \$15,000. When his trial was to take place no charge was made against him, the prosecution dropped, he was discharged, and congratulated by the magistrate, and now thinks of posing half the city for defameation of his spotless character. Winnipeg is not the biggest city in the world but it is the most corruptly governed.

A few weeks ago at least the Winnipeg Sun was popularly supposed to be a radical organ, and to speak in a radical manner by the tone. In the case of September 24th it devotes nearly a column to giving in a not conclusive at least able and eloquent arguments that when the C. P. R. is completed, in 1890, it will have to be taken over by the government, as a result of the syndicate to run it, and condemn it by saying what is to become of Canada then is to be the perplexing problem of the next future. What about the statehood and constitution and general laws showing that the Sun was giving on since that in connection with it a most stupendous swindle of the age. In case of such a statement from such a publisher.

LAW VS. JUSTICE.

While everybody knows that law is originally intended to uphold justice, it is not a less well known fact that the instances in which it not only fails of its object, but perpetrates injustice are by no means few. A case in point is the arrest of Alfred Dawson, last spring, charged with taking with intent to defraud, a post-hole auger, and his recent commitment to jail for one month at hard labor for the offence. The circumstances of the case, as undisputedly shown in evidence, were after this formula: A borrows an article unconditionally from B, of which C is the owner, with or without A's knowledge. D desires to use the article and asks B for the loan of it. B replies that he may have it when A is done with it. A is not done with it, but allows D to have it in the meantime. E also desires to use it and makes a request similar to that of D, and receives a similar answer. E carries this answer to A and is informed that he cannot have it as A is not done with it. E then, with C, the original owner's consent, obtains the article from D, and proceeds to use it. A, who is still responsible to B for the article, sees it lying on property belonging partially to E, who brought him the conditional order from B for its possession. Under the terms of that order A resumes possession of it. This is the crime with which Dawson was charged—assuming possession of something which, as far as he knew, was lawfully in his possession. Afterwards he was notified by the person from whom he borrowed it as to the real ownership of the article, and requested to return it. This he failed to do—as he asserts, and it is not shown to the contrary—through no fault of his own. But whether in fault in this part of his action or not, that is not the crime of which he stands charged. He is charged with taking "unlawfully, feloniously," etc., and not with retaining or neglecting, or refusing to deliver up, and this is the crime for which he is now undergoing imprisonment. The value of the article in question, it may be mentioned, is estimated variously at from \$2 to \$10. For this crime he is arrested, handcuffed and kept in custody over night. An examination is held and he is committed for criminal trial. Bail is fixed at \$900 and some of the leading merchants of the place are refused as bondsmen. And here it may be well to remark that the action of the magistrates in placing unnecessary difficulties in the way of his securing bail, was almost certain to result in this man who, on conviction, is sentenced to one month's imprisonment—as the judge remarked, the lightest sentence that could be passed—being compelled to spend in jail the time from the 27th of May to the 6th of October.

We are bound to suppose that in all this business the magistrates and judge have acted strictly in accordance with law, and have not been induced to their action by any other motives than a desire to uphold it to the letter. At the same time we know that a man is now lying in jail condemned to hard labour, whom nine tenths of the people of the country say and believe has done nothing to justify his being there, and had the alleged crime been committed in any other part of Canada or the British dominions would not have been there.

In all other parts of Canada the protection of trial by jury is thrown around the liberty of the subject. Here, in certain cases, he is deprived of that protection which ensures that whatever the letter of the law says, or may be twisted to say—whatever injustice might be perpetrated by the carrying out of the letter—the moral sense of the community, represented by an impartial jury, has an opportunity of preventing injustice from being done. The consequence we see a reputation of being confined in jail for what is not a crime in the eyes of common sense, whatever it may be in that of law, and in defiance of a most common-sense public opinion.

While the decision of the judge is most satisfactory for the magistrates who committed Dawson for trial, it does not raise their credit on that occasion one iota in the public estimation, and it is most unfortunate for the maintenance of respect for law that such conduct should not only go uncondemned, but be upheld. The idea that any man can be trusted as the man has, under

color of law and through its machinery, is repugnant to people used to free institutions and will not long be tamely submitted to by them. Now that it is known that the right of trial by jury is not universally acknowledged in the North-West, and the evil consequences of the lack of that right is made so apparent, it is the duty of every man who loves freedom and justice to stamp with disapproval the abandonment of the judicial system of Britain for that of Turkey—a system which allows a man to be judged by a cadi instead of by a jury of his peers—a system under which a man may suffer the penalties of law and yet not receive justice.

THE Montreal Gazette says that since Mr. Mackenzie has examined the C. P. R. experimental farms between Moose Jaw and Calgary he pronounces the land along the line for that distance as equal to any in the North-West. Mr. Mackenzie admits—and the Gazette triumphs in the admission—that before he saw this land he was wrong in his opinion regarding it. Mr. Mackenzie has not yet seen the land along the old proposed line and how then is he in a position to compare it with anything; for if he was ignorant of the country along the present line until he saw it, it is reasonable to suppose he is yet ignorant in regard to this portion, which he has not seen. As a matter of fact the country along the present line will not bear intelligent comparison for an instant with that along the original Sandford Fleming route.

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